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PASSIVE RESISTANCE AMONG COMMUNIST OFFICIALS

For some time the work of minor Red authorities, especially in outlying rreths and villages, has not pleased the inner party organization. The inner circle chie's are worried because the number of Communists willing to spy on party members and others is decreasing daily. The reason for this decrease is that many rreth officials have begun to doubt the stability of the present regime, and consequently, are worried about being compromised in the eyes of the people. They are anxious to have their past errors forgotten.

Primary partyorganizations, especially in large centers far from Tirana, have not carried out the required party work. They do not meet regularly, and when they meet, there is little discussion of party problems. Members do not employ criticism and self-criticism, because they wish neither to be laughed at by their comrades now to break with them. They fear the political influence of those who sit in Tirans and transmit the orders of their Soviet masters.

Even the party instructors have not carried out the directives of the Altanian Workers' Party. They have not promoted professional standards or Marxist-Leninist standards and ideology. Their main duties are to control the primary organizations and to report to the proper Communist cosmittees any defects in the political activities of Communists and non-Communists. But the chief complaint of the inner circle against the instructors is that they do not wish to take responsibility and are too indulgent with primary party organization members. The Party hierarchy accuses the instructors of "sickly sentimentality" and "spiritless indulgence of superiors toward subordinates," terms which were previously applied by Communist leaders without justification, but which now correspond exactly to the existing situation.

Most of the officials who had been active in the Hational Liberation Movement are young, lacking in experience, and dazzled by promises of a brilliant career. Enveror, in cowing in contact with the people in the Albanian mountains and in the hill villages, and observing the actual situation and the reactions of the people, they undergo a change of attitude, which as far as high party circles are concerned, amounts to defeation.

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Perhaps one cannot autribute sabotage to these officials of outlying districts, but there can be no doubt that their fear of being compromised by harsh treatment of the people has led them into a true passive resistance. This fear, together with the scorn with which the people receive the directives of the receive has assisted in creating a tacit agreement between the people and some official organizations in many localities, and especially in villages.

The Communist government and party continue to boast of their smaxing contributions to the welfare of the people, particularly of the worker. They claim that the conditions created by a proletarian dictatorship are the most effective for a country's development. Just last week, in a speech in the name of the regime and Party, Mehmet Shehu stressed the "leading role of the working claim" in Albania. The truth is that miserable living conditions of the worker are the most eloquent accusation of trickery and shamelessness on the part of the Albanian Communict Party.

It is sufficient to visit the houses of workers in the Vione rice-milling factory. There ten workers live in a small room in a house near the building year; men and women live in the same room. The most necessary comforts are lacking, and the samitary conditions are unspeakable. In the evening the rooms are lighted by torches. The dining room has no windows. There is no such thing as cleanliness or order. Every evening after a hard day's work, the workers are obliged to spend three quarters of an hour getting their food ration. Then, when they return to the dining room, they often find the door shut.

So far, the state bureaucracy, especially the agitprop section, has done little but wake all sorts of promises to pacify the people, telling them that this phase will soon be over and that they should be patient because, by their sacrifices, they are building socialism. But the workers are becoming bored and they, as well as the Albanian people in general show signs of impatience through protests which they would not have dared to make earlier. Those who do not accept such sacrifices wonder why the Communist leaders are living in luxury at the expense of the worker.

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